

## FISH SURVEY OF HYDERABAD STATE.

### *Part III.—Fishes of the Medak District.*

BY

M. RAHIMULAH, D.SC., F.Z.S.,

*Department of Fisheries, Hyderabad (Deccan).*

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Medak district (comprising of Medak, Kalabgur, Andol, Siddipet and Yellareddy taluqs besides Narasapur and Vikarabad (belonging to the Paigah)), lies between  $17^{\circ}25'$  and  $18^{\circ}19'$  N. and  $77^{\circ}48'$  and  $78^{\circ}31'$  E., with a total area of 3,198 sq. miles. It is bounded on the north-east and north by Karimnagar and Nizamabad; on the east and south by Atrafi-Balda district; and on the west by Bidar district and Paigah Estates.

There are numerous low hills; one range extends from Ramayapet in the north to the southern portion of Nizamabad, and then turning to the south again enters the district. Another range extends from the north-western corner to the east. The most important river is Manjra which runs through the district for about 60 miles. The Haldi or Pushpa and Aleru rivers are its main tributaries.

The rock formation is Archaean gneiss. Total population is 758,220 and that of the fisher-folk about 12,500. Tanks number about 3,000, and there are about 85 miles of canals; small anicuts or 'mathris' are 74 in number, one at Ghanpur about 10 miles from Medak town is quite big. From here two canals run from each flank of the Manjra and irrigate large tracts of land in Andol and Medak taluqs. Average rainfall is 33.4 inches and temperature  $63^{\circ}$ - $96^{\circ}$ .

Only a cursory survey of smaller tanks in Kalabgur, Siddipet and Andol taluqs was carried out, and important ones are mentioned below:—

*Mahboobsagar* is a fairly big tank near the old fort of Sangareddy town with a waterspread of about 2 sq. miles when full. It is fed by the Manjra during rains. The bottom is muddy and full of aquatic weeds which harbour many small shrimps and other crustaceans. As it is shallow, fishing is done intensively and very few fishes escape the nets of the fishermen. 'Murrals' are the principal food-fishes of this tank besides a few others as noted below:—

*Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas).  
*Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacép.).  
*Chela clupeoides* (Bl.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) sophore* Ham.  
*Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.).  
*Ophicephalus punctatus* Bl.  
*Ambassis nama* (Ham.).  
*Callichrous bimaculatus* (Bl.).  
*Mystus tengara* (Ham.).

Andol tank (waterspread  $2\frac{1}{2}$  sq. miles), Posanipet tank, Ammasagar (waterspread 3 sq. miles) are within a few miles radius of Andol. All of them are shallow and dry up during summer. Only a few small fishes were obtained :—

*Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacép.).  
*Chela clupeoides* (Bl.).  
*Rasbora daniconius* (Ham.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) dorsalis* (Jerdon).  
*Barbus (Puntius) sophore* (Ham.).  
*Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.).  
*Ophicephalus punctatus* Bl.  
*Clarias batrachus* Linn.

Medak town is almost surrounded by small and large tanks; near the town there are fairly big tanks. About 10 miles from the town is the Ghanpur anicut across the Manjra and from its southern flank the Mahboob canal starts; it is 27 miles long and irrigates 500 acres of land. It feeds directly or indirectly many tanks of which some important ones are: Kistapooram, Railamadgu, Mambajpalli, Garwanpalli, Kanasanipalli, Devar Kosanipalli, Mutayapalli, Jakannapet, Nagaram and Sardana. The canal finally falls into the Pocharam reservoir.

The other canal starting from the northern flank of the anicut is the Fateh Canal which irrigates about 400 acres of land in the Andol taluq and feeds Chairypalli, Nagasanpalli, Unnawaram, Issipet, Kothapalli, Yellapuram, Poorstinipalli and Kurtial tanks. The total length of this canal is about 22 miles.

The following is the list of a few selected fishes collected there :—

*Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacép.).  
*Chela clupeoides* (Bl.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) sophore* Ham.  
*Catla catla* C. & V.  
*Ambassis nama* (Ham.).  
*Mystus cavasius* (Ham.).

Fingerlings of *Labeo fimbriata* (Bl.), *Wallagonia attu* (Bl.), *Catla catla* C. & V., and many other fishes were collected in fairly large numbers from many of these tanks—they must have entered the canals from the river, and then along with the water have reached these tanks. These shallow tanks can thus easily serve as stocking centres from where the fingerlings of *Catla* and other fishes may be collected and then transported to other parts of the Dominions for stocking purposes.

The most important and the largest reservoir of the Medak district is the Pocharam reservoir (waterspread 6.2 sq. miles) formed by damming the river Aleru. It is situated in a very fine natural setting being surrounded by low hills which are covered with green vegetation during the rainy season, and during the winter months the lake teems with ducks and other aquatic birds which take shelter on small 'islands'. In short, it is one of the prettiest spots in the Hyderabad State and easily accessible to all lovers of nature. During the rainy season the lake overflows and is a magnificent sight to look at. At that time fishes are caught on the aprons and the overflow channels in large numbers; one catch of about 4 hours produced a bag of 60

fishes weighing approximately 350 lbs. At other seasons also the lake proper and its different channels were netted. Following is the list of fishes obtained:—

*Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas).  
*Notopterus osmanii* Das & Rahimullah.  
*Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacép.).  
*Chela clupeoides* (Bl.).  
*Chela phulo* (Ham.).  
*Rasbora burchanani* Bl.  
*Rasbora daniconius* (Ham.).  
*Aspidoparia morar* (Ham.).  
*Barilius bakeri* Day.  
*Barbus (Puntius) kolus* Sykes.  
*Barbus (Puntius) sarana* (Ham.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) sophore* Ham.  
*Barbus (Puntius) stoliczkanus* Day.  
*Cirrhitina reba* (Ham.).  
*Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.).  
*Labeo boggut* (Sykes).  
*Labeo calbasu* (Ham.).

*Labeo fimbriata* (Bl.).  
*Labeo potail* (Sykes).  
*Lepidocephalus guntea* (Ham.).  
*Rohtee belangeri* Cuv. & Val.  
*Rohtee cotio* var. *cunma* Day.  
*Rohtee vigorsii* Sykes.  
*Laubuca laubuca* (Ham.).  
*Ophicephalus gachua* (Ham.).  
*Ophicephalus marulius* Ham.  
*Ambassis nama* Day.  
*Ambassis ranga* (Ham.).  
*Callichrous bimaculatus* (Bl.).  
*Callichrous pabda* (Ham.).  
*Mystus aor* (Ham.).  
*Mystus armatus* (Day).  
*Mystus seenghala* (Sykes).  
*Proeutropiichthys taakree* (Sykes).  
*Silonopangasius childrenii* (Sykes).

The *Pocharam Canal* starts from here, and after running a course of 36 miles splits into many distributaries, two of which drain into the Nizamsagar reservoir and some finally flow into tanks after irrigating an area of 13,069 acres of land. During its course it passes through many tanks and indirectly feeds many others; the important ones are: *Muttumeda*, *Ramareddy*, *Nagareddy*, *Tadur*, *Jalalpur*, *Burgampalli*, *Yellareddy*, *Lingareddy* and *Bhawanipet* tanks.

*Yellareddy* tank, out of these, is the biggest having a water-spread of about 3 sq. miles, situated near the *Yellareddy* town. It is full of 'tunga' (*Typha elephantina* Roxb.) which is found in dense growth on the margins and in deeper portions, other vegetation is profuse. This tank is noted for its 'murrel' which grow to a large size; this is the only place where I found 'murrel nooze' in operation; large number of murrel-fry are also caught and then sold for stocking purposes. The breeding season for 'murrel', so far studied, is twice a year, viz., March-April and July-September. Fishes collected are as follows:—

*Rasbora daniconius* (Ham.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) amphibius* (C.V.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) chola* (Ham.).  
*Barbus (Puntius) sophore* Ham.  
*Barbus (Puntius) ticto* Ham.  
*Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.).  
*Rohtee cotio* var. *cunma* Day.  
*Ophicephalus gachua* (Ham.).  
*Ophicephalus marulius* Ham.  
*Ophicephalus punctatus* Bl.  
*Ophicephalus striatus* Bl.  
*Ambassis nama* (Ham.).  
*Mystus tengra* (Ham.).

Besides the tanks, a survey of the rivers *Manjra*, *Haldi* and *Aleru* was also carried out and a composite list is given below. The *Manjra*, the longest river of this district, enters near *Jogipet* and then after a run of about 60 miles falls into the Nizamsagar. The

Haldi joins it at a distance of about 3 miles from the Medak town and the Aleru about 10 miles up Nizamsagar. The beds of these rivers are rocky and only in parts, sandy. All of them are perennial but in summer they can be forded at places and in the tributaries a very shallow current of water remains, but during rains the amount of water is tremendous and the flow very rapid. The list of fishes is as follows:—

<i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas).	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Ham.).
<i>Notopterus osmanii</i> Das & Rahimullah.	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Ham.).
<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> (Lacép.).	<i>Thymichthys sandkhol</i> (Sykes).
<i>Mastacembelus pancalus</i> (Ham.).	<i>Rohtee belangeri</i> Cuv. & Val.
<i>Rhynchobdella aculeata</i> (Bl.).	<i>Rohtee cotio</i> var <i>cunma</i> Day.
<i>Chela bacaila</i> (Ham.).	<i>Rohtee neilli</i> Day.
<i>Chela boopis</i> (Day).	<i>Rohtee vigorsii</i> Sykes.
<i>Chela clupeoides</i> (Bl.).	<i>Lepidocephalus guntea</i> (Ham.).
<i>Barilius bendelisis</i> Ham.	<i>Nemachilus anguilla</i> Annandale.
<i>Rasbora daniconius</i> Ham.	<i>Nemachilus botia</i> (Ham.).
<i>Barbus (Puntius) dorsalis</i> (Jerdon).	<i>Nemachilus denisonii</i> Day.
<i>Barbus (Puntius) kolus</i> Sykes.	<i>Ophicephalus marulius</i> Ham.
<i>Barbus (Puntius) sarana</i> (Ham.).	<i>Ophicephalus striatus</i> Bl.
<i>Barbus (Puntius) sophore</i> Ham.	<i>Ambassis nama</i> (Ham.).
<i>Barbus (Puntius) ticto</i> (Jerdon).	<i>Ambassis ranga</i> (Ham.).
<i>Barbus (tor) Khudree</i> Sykes.	<i>Callichrous bimaculatus</i> (Bl.).
<i>Barbus (tor) musullah</i> Sykes.	<i>Rita hastata</i> Val.
<i>Cirrhitina reba</i> Ham.	<i>Rita pavimenta</i> (Val.).
<i>Gerra stenorhynchus</i> (Jerdon).	<i>Clarias batrachus</i> Linn.
<i>Labeo bata</i> (Ham.).	<i>Wallagonia attu</i> (Bl.).
<i>Labeo boggut</i> Sykes.	<i>Mystus aor</i> (Ham.).
<i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Ham.).	<i>Mystus seenghala</i> (Sykes)
<i>Labeo fimbriata</i> (Bl.).	<i>Mystus tengara</i> (Ham.).
<i>Labeo potail</i> (Sykes).	<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bl.).
<i>Catla catla</i> C. & V.	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i> (Ham.).
<i>Esomus danricus</i> (Ham.).	<i>Proeutroptichthys taakree</i> (Sykes).
	<i>Silonopangasius childrenii</i> (Sykes).

Some parts of the Manjra are excellent for angling, especially where water collects in deep pools, and the anicut at Ghanpoor also provides good sport. Some parts below the Pocharam reservoir are also very good angling spots where *Mystus aor* and *M. seenghala* take live bait easily. In the reservoir itself some 'islands' are also very good for this purpose.

### **Barbus (tor) khudree** Sykes.

*Barbus khudree*, Sykes, *Trans. Zool. Soc. London*, II, p. 357.

*Barbus khudree* Sykes, Hora & Misra, *J.B.N.H.S.*, 40, p. 24.

*Barbus (tor) khudree* Sykes, Hora, *Ibid*, 44, p. 6.

In fin-formula it corresponds with that given by Hora and Misra but in colouration it differs a little.

Upper half of the body greyish black; lower half pinkish-white. Dorsal with greyish rays and margin; pectoral and anal yellowish-orange; ventral fringed with orange; caudal yellowish with grey fringe. Eye with yellowish-white margin.

It is locally known as *Kalimparka* and *Mansoor*,



**Barbus (tor) musullah Sykes.**

*Barbus musullah* Sykes, *Trans. Zool. Soc., London*, 1841, II, p. 356.

The Bawanny Mahseer, Thomas, *Rod in India*, 3rd Edition, pp. 22, 25.

*Barbus (tor) musullah* Sykes, *Hora, J.B.N.H.S.*, 44, pp. 5, 6.

**Colouration:**

♂—Upper part of the body light-blue, lower lighter in colour. Dorsal, ventral and caudal blue; pectoral and anal yellowish-white.

♀—Body colour resembled that of the male but Dorsal fin was blackish-blue; pectoral and anal yellowish-white; ventral yellowish-pink and the caudal was bluish with orange fringe. These specimens were collected during the breeding season and were quite ripe. The fish is locally known as *Irraham*.

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